

*Indigenous households. Transculturation of Sicily and southern Italy in the Archaic period.* Published in GOTARC Series B, Gothenburg Archaeological Thesis, No 44, ISSN 0282-6860, ISBN 91-85245-28-3. Written in English. 412 pp, 71 figs.

This thesis is written to highlight cultural contacts and their effects within indigenous households. In order to do so I have chosen three Archaic inland settlements from the Mediterranean area; Morgantina, Monte Polizzo (Sicily) and Botromagno, Gravina di Puglia (southern Italy).

Until recently, local inland settlements were seldom given any attention due to previous concern within the discipline of Classical Archaeology favouring the Greek 'colonized' area. This focus, with roots in old imperialistic notions, caused an unbalance in the archaeological puzzle in which the Greeks are recognized as the dominating culture. This concern contained many misconceptions in which a concept like *Hellenism* has been nourished. Therefore, I have found it fruitful to explore the credibility as well as the underlying causes of this concept. In this procedure I have used a post-colonial approach. The advantages of this theory are for instance that it provides the opportunity to reconsider the archaeological tradition as well as that it gives the small, local groups a chance to be discussed in new terms. Today indigenous people are not seen as subordinated, passive receivers of foreign culture. Instead their role as conscious, active and selective participants in the process of cultural transformations emerges to be conventional. In this study the cultural interactions are discussed in terms of hybridity and transculturation that open up for a possible *third space*. Here, in this fictive room, different components of local and external cultural material and cultural practice, fusing into an altered cultural behaviour.

The material shows variability, indicating the importance of heterogeneous thinking and the exclusion of homogeneous trajectories. Furthermore, the cultural encounters, visible in the archaeological record, may be considered more complex than earlier believed.

The material conditions for the analysis are neither idealistic nor spectacular. Instead, parts of this thesis are based on material which is regarded as "bad material". A lot of this type of material is frequently recognized as uninteresting or difficult to deal with. This study categorizes it as so-called second rate material. Major parts of it is destroyed, depleted or simply found in the "wrong" zone of culture. This thesis tries to demonstrate the potential in second rate material.

*Key words:* indigenous, households, cultural contacts, transculturation, hellenization, colonization, Greeks, Phoenicians, Elymians, local groups, perception, post colonial theory, microarchaeology, hybridity, heterogeneity, series, second rate material, formation processes.